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THE

ACT OF INCORPORATION

AND

LAWS

OF THE

*PHILADELPHIA MEDICAL SOCIETY.*

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY,

FEBRUARY, 1817.

*EX COLLISIONE SCINTILLA.*

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1817.



THE  
*ACT OF INCORPORATION.*  
OF THE  
PHILADELPHIA MEDICAL SOCIETY.

WHEREAS by an act of the general assembly of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, passed the sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, entitled, "An Act to confer on certain associations of the citizens of this commonwealth, the powers and immunities of corporations, or bodies politic in law," it is enacted, "That when any number of persons, citizens of this commonwealth are associated, or mean to associate, for any literary, charitable, or for any religious purpose, and shall be desirous to acquire and enjoy the immunities of a corporation or body politic in law, it shall, and may be lawful for such persons to prepare an instrument in writing, therein specifying the objects, articles, conditions, name, style, or title, under which they have associated, or mean to associate, and the same to exhibit and present to the Attorney-General of the commonwealth for the time being, for his perusal and approbation, and afterwards to the supreme court of said commonwealth, for the perusal and approbation of said court, which, if finally approved, shall be sent with certificates of such approbation to the governor of the

“commonwealth, in order to be by him transmitted to the  
 “master of the rolls, to be enrolled, and thence the persons  
 “so associating shall become, and be a corporation or body  
 “politic in law and in fact.”

NOW, in pursuance, and by virtue of the said recited act of the general assembly of Pennsylvania, the subscribers constituting an association under the title of “The Philadelphia Medical Society,” being desirous to acquire and enjoy the powers and immunities of a corporation or body politic in law, for the literary purposes of their society, do present this instrument in writing, containing, as is hereafter set forth, the objects, articles, and conditions, style, or title, under which they have associated, to the said attorney and supreme court respectively for their perusal and approbation to the intent that they may become, and be a corporation or body politic in law and in fact, agreeably to the provisions in the said recited act. That is to say,

## ARTICLE I.

The corporation shall be styled, “The Philadelphia Medical Society,” and shall consist of all the members of the association under that name, and such other members as shall hereafter be duly chosen, agreeably to the bye laws of said corporation, for the purpose of the mutual improvement in the science of medicine, and for the promoting of medical knowledge.

## ARTICLE II.

The officers of the corporation shall consist of a president, two vice-presidents, three secretaries, one treasurer, and



two curators, which officers shall be chosen at such times, in such manner, and for such periods, respectively, as the by-laws of the society shall ordain. But all the officers now in office, shall so remain, until the next stated period of election. The duties of the officers respectively shall be such as the by-laws of the society do or shall prescribe or ordain.

### ARTICLE III.

The corporation shall convene every year at six o'clock P. M. of the first Saturday of November, and from that time shall continue to meet, at the same hour, and on the same day in each week, until the last Saturday of the ensuing February, in every year inclusive. But there shall be moreover two extraordinary meetings in each session, one on the first Wednesday of December, and the other on the first Wednesday of February, at six o'clock in the evening of those days respectively, for the sole and exclusive purposes of making, or altering, and amending the by-laws of the society, and of electing the officers thereof.

### ARTICLE IV.

That the said corporation and their successors, by the name, style, and title aforesaid, shall for ever hereafter be able and capable, in law and in fact, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in any court or courts, before any judge or judges, justice or justices, in all manner of suits, complaints, pleas, causes, matters, and demands whatsoever; they shall have power to make, have, and use one common seal, with such device and inscription as they shall deem proper,

and the same to break, alter, and renew, at their pleasure ; they shall have power and authority to make rules, bye laws and ordinances ; and to do every other act and thing needful for the good government and support of the affairs of the said corporation : Provided always, That the said bye laws, rules or ordinances, or any of them, be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, and laws of this commonwealth, or to this instrument.

## ARTICLE V.

The said corporation and their successors, by the name, style, and title aforesaid, shall be able and capable in law, according to the terms and conditions of this instrument, to take, receive, and hold, all grants, gifts, devises, and bequests, of real, personal, or mixed, estates, and to dispose thereof in any lawful manner for the use of the corporation : Provided always, that the clear yearly value of the estate, real, personal, or mixed, of the said corporation, and the interest of money by them lent, shall not exceed the sum of five hundred pounds.

I have perused and examined the preceding instrument, and hereby certify, that I am of opinion, that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained, are lawful.

JARED INGERSOLL, Attorney-general.

April 6th, 1792.

We the justices of the supreme court of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, hereby certify, That at a supreme court held at Philadelphia, for the said commonwealth, on the thirteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, an act or instrument of incorporation of the Philadelphia Medical Society, by the name and title of "The Philadelphia Medical Society," signed by a number of persons, citizens of this commonwealth, together with the opinion of Jared Ingersoll, esquire, attorney-general of this commonwealth, thereon, was exhibited to the said supreme court, who having perused and examined the same, concur with him in opinion, that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained are lawful.

THOMAS M'KEAN,  
EDWARD SHIPPEN,  
JASPER YEATES,  
WILLIAM BRADFORD.

In the name, and by the authority of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

THOMAS MIFFLIN,  
Governor of the said commonwealth,  
To MATTHEW IRVIN, Esq.

Master of the rolls in and for the said commonwealth,  
sends greeting :

WHEREAS it has been duly certified to me, by Jared Ingersoll, esquire, attorney-general of the said commonwealth, and by Thomas M'Kean, esquire, chief-justice, and Edward Shippen, Jasper Yeates, and William Bradford,

esquires, justices of the supreme court of Pennsylvania, that they have respectively perused and examined the foregoing act or instrument, for the incorporation of "The Philadelphia Medical Society;" and that they concur in opinion, that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained are lawful. NOW KNOW YOU, that in pursuance of the act of the general assembly in such case made and provided, I have transmitted the said act, or instrument of incorporation unto you, the said Matthew Irvin, master of the rolls aforesaid, hereby requiring you to enrol the same, at the expense of the applicants, to the intent that according to the objects, articles, and conditions, therein set forth and contained, the parties may become, and be, a corporation, or body politic in law, and in fact, to have continuance by name, style, and title, in the said instrument provided and declared.

Given under my hand, and the great seal of the state, at Philadelphia, this second day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, and of the commonwealth, the sixteenth.

By the Governor,

A. J. DALLAS, Secretary.

Inrolled in the rolls office for the state of Pennsylvania, in law book No. 4, page 465, &c. Witness my hand and seal of office, the second day of June, 1792.

MATTHEW IRVIN.

THE  
*CONSTITUTION AND LAWS*  
FOR  
THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA.

*ANNO DOMINI* 1817.



## THE CONSTITUTION, &c.

THE society shall convene every year, on the first Saturday of November, at six o'clock P. M. and continue to meet on the same day of the week, and at the same hour, until the last Saturday of February inclusive. But a majority of the members present, shall have power to call a special meeting at any time they may think proper.

The president shall take the chair and constitute the society precisely at ten minutes after six o'clock, and adjourn at ten, or before if agreed on.

### OF OFFICERS.

There shall be the following officers of this society, viz. a president, two vice-presidents, three secretaries, one treasurer, and two curators. The above officers shall be chosen annually by ballot, on the extraordinary meeting to be held on the first Wednesday of February.

### OF THE PRESIDENT.

The president shall preside at all meetings, preserve order, regulate the debates, state and put questions, agreeably to the sense and intention of the members. He shall be compelled to fine any member acting disorderly, in a sum not exceeding five shillings for each offence.

## OF VICE-PRESIDENTS.

In the absence of the president, his duty shall devolve on the vice-presidents, so that they shall preside alternately at meetings ; but if neither the president, nor vice-presidents be present, a chairman shall preside, invested with all the privileges and duties of the president. He shall be chosen in the following manner, viz. at the commencement of the first meeting of each session, the society shall immediately proceed to elect a chairman, whose duty it shall be to attend at the opening of each meeting of the session, on which he may have been chosen (under the penalty of one dollar) for the purpose of supplying the deficiencies as above specified.

## OF SECRETARIES.

One of the secretaries (to be chosen from among the junior members) shall attend each meeting of the society, take down the minutes, which he shall read at the next meeting, and (when corrected) copy into a book kept for that purpose. He shall insert the reports of committees at full length, together with all motions, having the name of the proposer and the person who seconds them attached : he shall likewise read all letters and papers that may be communicated to the society, and transcribe into a proper book, such of them as the society may think worthy of being preserved : he is also to deliver a correct statement of all the fines incurred at each meeting to the treasurer : he is to announce to the society at the conclusion of each ordinary meeting the subject of the dissertation next in order, together with the name of its author. The name of the secretary shall always be signed to the



minutes. If he is absent at the time for constituting the society, he shall be fined one dollar, unless in case of sickness, of which he shall have given due notice by transmitting a correct statement of the preceding meeting. The other two secretaries shall give notice to honorary members of their election, write and answer letters in behalf of the society, and in general manage all matter of correspondence.

### OF THE TREASURER.

The treasurer shall collect all monies arising from the admission and fines of the members, receive all donations of money that may be made to the society, and shall pay the same agreeably to their order, certified to him by the president, vice-president, or member who was in the chair when such order was made. The treasurer shall keep a regular account of all monies received and paid by him as aforesaid, and once every year, or oftener if required by the society, shall render a statement to them of the stock in his hands and the disbursements made by their order; and shall deliver up to his successor the books and all papers in his hands; and for the faithful discharge of his trust, shall, before entering on his office, give bond and security to the president and vice-presidents, in double the sum with which they or any two of them shall judge he may probably become entrusted during his said office.

### OF CURATORS.

The curators, of whom the librarian ex officio shall make one, shall take charge of and preserve for the use of the society, all property of whatever kind it may be, (money ex-

cepted), of which the society shall become possessed, and keep an exact list of the same, together with the names of the respective donors, in a book provided for that purpose, which book shall be laid before the society as often as called for. The curators upon entering upon their office shall give such a receipt for every thing committed to their care or charge as the society may direct, and at the end of the term shall deliver up the same to their successors. For the faithful performance of the duty and trust reposed in them, they shall give bond to the president and vice-presidents in such sum as they or any two of them, shall demand.

### OF MEMBERS AND THEIR ADMISSION.

The society shall consist of honorary and junior members—every honorary member shall be exempted from the duties of junior members, except attending on committees when appointed, or unless he be chairman.

Any person who has obtained a degree in medicine, or is eminent in the practice of physic, or any one of the branches of the science of medicine, may be proposed as an honorary member: He shall be proposed on or before the first Saturday in January, and may be ballotted for at any subsequent meeting; and if elected by two thirds, shall be informed of it by one of the corresponding secretaries (at the command of the president), by letter accompanied with a certificate from the society.

Junior members wishing to obtain the grade of honorary membership, shall have previously graduated in medicine, or shall present to the society a thesis on some medical subject, or some subject connected with medicine, on which,

together with the several branches of medicine, they shall be examined by a committee appointed for the purpose; which committee shall decide whether the candidate be worthy of honorary membership or not. In all cases an appeal may be made to the society.

At the first meeting of each session a committee consisting of five honorary members, three of which shall constitute a quorum, to be constituted the examining committee, shall be elected by the society. The society shall have power at any period to fill all the vacancies which may occur in the examining committee.

Any person desirous of becoming a junior member of this society, shall be proposed at a previous stated meeting, and his place of residence announced. The name of the proposer and of the person who seconded the nomination, shall be annexed to the proposition. Should his application not be objected to, he shall appear at the appointed time before the committee, who having examined him on the several branches of medical science as they may judge expedient, shall have the power of deciding whether he be worthy of membership or not. The examining committee, during the period for the admission of members, shall meet on the Thursday evening of each week: oftener if necessary, and their judgment shall be final in all cases.

The examining committee shall deliver weekly to the recording secretary of the society, a summary of their proceedings.

On the first stated meeting subsequent to the examination of a candidate who shall have been approved of, the secretary shall introduce him to the presiding officer, who shall deliver to him the following address:

You, A. B. having been proposed by two members of the Philadelphia Medical Society, as a suitable candidate for membership, and having honorably acquitted yourself before the examining committee, are judged worthy of a seat in this ancient and respectable institution ; and you do thus publicly declare that so long as you shall continue a member of the same, you will comply with all its laws, and use your best endeavours to promote its prosperity.

When the candidate answering in the affirmative, the presiding officer shall request him to take his seat among the members of the society.

Every member admitted to junior membership shall on the evening of his admission pay to the secretary the sum of five dollars.

No candidate, if rejected shall be permitted to apply for admission till the ensuing session. No candidate shall be admitted after the first Saturday in February.

## OF DISSERTATIONS.

Each junior member, according to seniority, shall prepare and read before the society, a dissertation on some medical subject, or one connected with medicine, under the penalty of seven shilling and six pence, unless in case of sickness; but this shall not exempt him from bringing up his piece on the ensuing meeting, or from being subjected to a fine for each succeeding non-compliance. Any hono<sup>r</sup>able member shall be entitled to the privilege of producing, or communicating to the society, a dissertation on any subject embraced by this institution ; and in order to encourage this practice, the society will always give such dissertation preference.

both as to the time when it shall be read and (if agreeable to the member) discussed.

At each meeting a dissertation shall be discussed, and another, to be discussed at the ensuing meeting, shall be read by its author.

## OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS.

There shall be two extraordinary meetings in each session, one on the first Wednesday in December, for the sole purpose of altering or amending laws : and the other on the first Wednesday in February, at six o'clock P. M. for the purpose of altering and mending laws and choosing officers.

No motion whatever, which relates to the alteration of laws, shall, on any account, be discussed, till it shall have been proposed at least one meeting previous to the extraordinary meeting.

## OF COMMITTEES.

The mode of appointing committees shall be as follows, viz : the president shall nominate one gentleman who shall be considered as chairman, he shall name the second, and the second, the third, and so on until the number agreed on be completed : if the business be of a very extraordinary and important nature, any member may move, that the committee be increased, and such shall accordingly be done. The chairman of every committee shall appoint a time for its meeting, and he leave the society. Committees shall have the power of imposing a fine of one shilling on any of their members who absent themselves from their meetings.

## OF MOTIONS.

Any member may make whatever motion he thinks will tend to the benefit of the society; his proposal or motion must be given to the president in writing; and it shall immediately be acted on, unless a majority of the members wish it to lie over for a week's consideration. In either case it shall be recorded on the minutes of the society.

Every motion shall be carried by a majority of the members present, except such as relate to the admission of members, of candidates to read, the expulsion of members, or such as may effect an established law of the society; in which case two thirds shall be required.

## OF DONATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

All communications and donations made to the society, are to be directed to the president, who shall deposit them in the hands of the proper officers, for the use of the society.

## REASONS AND MANNER OF EXPULSION.

Any member who refuses to pay his fine or fines, or to comply, in any particular, with the laws of the society, shall be expelled, unless reasons are adduced which shall be deemed satisfactory; but previous to the expulsion information shall be given to the society, and the reasons therefor shall be inserted on the minutes.

## OF RESIGNATIONS.

If any member is desirous of leaving the society, he shall signify it in a written resignation, which, if accepted, shall lie



over until the ensuing meeting ; when by the consent of the society, his name shall be struck off from the roll. But he shall not be permitted to resign, until he has discharged the arrears due from him to the society.

## OF CERTIFICATES.

Any member about to leave the university, who has attended the remainder of the session in which he was elected, may apply for a certificate to the junior secretary, which shall be given immediately, upon paying for it, provided he be not in arrears to the society.

The following shall be the form,

Societas Medica Philadelphiensis, Anno Domini M,DCC,LXXXIX, constituta, Omnibus qui hæc legerint, Salutem. Viro ingenio et ornatissimo socium quem in numerum nostrum accepimus, cujus ingenium felicissimum et diligencia indefessa semper nobis oblectamento fuere, has literas lubentissime donamus, atque eum omnibus Philosophiæ et Medicinæ cultoribus solícite commendamus. In quorum Testimonium sigillum nostrum cum nomine Presidis subscripto presentibus apponi fecimus.

## OF DECORUM.

No member of this society shall be at liberty to speak more than once on any point of debate, without having previously obtained special permission for this purpose, nor more than once upon all occasions to speak, shall have spoken.

No member shall interrupt the president, or any other

member, while speaking; every member shall stand erect when he speaks, and address himself to the president, under the penalty of one shilling for each offence; which sum shall be the fine annexed to all laws where none is specified.

No member shall be permitted to sit or stand in the presence of the society with his head covered; and if any member shall so offend, he shall be fined in a sum not exceeding fifty nor less than twenty-five cents.

A repetition of any of the offences, specified in the three last paragraphs, by any member or members, shall be considered as a dereliction of that respect due the society, and he or they so offending shall be fined in double the sum mentioned above.

## RULES FOR THE REGULATION OF EACH ORDINARY MEETING.

I. The chairman shall constitute the society at 10 minutes after 6 o'clock.

II. The minutes of the proceeding meeting shall be read, and if necessary corrected.

III. Candidates shall be introduced.

IV. Committees shall report.

V. Motions in order.

VI. The Lecture in order shall be discussed.

VII. The dissertation from the preceding discussion at the next meeting shall be read.

VIII. The name of the next meeting shall be announced at the next meeting.

IX. The Society shall







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